





# Appendix F

## *Weight Rating*

The weight of an animal depends on several factors. Many veterinary nutritionists have illustrated weight ranges for dogs from very thin to obese. Keep in mind that the age of a dog will factor in to the ideal weight; as well as the body changes that occur when aging from adolescence to maturity. Like people, as a dog ages and matures, its body shape changes. For example, at about 2–3 years old a dog's rib cage springs out and its chest drops. Some dog's appearance changes considerably when this happens. Also, weight gain may accompany this change.

Use **Table F-1-1** on the following page to match the physical characteristics with your detector dog to determine if it is very thin, ideal, or obese. If the weight of your detector dog is other than ideal, consult with a veterinarian about a prescribed diet.

**TABLE F-1-1: Determine the Weight Range of Your Dog**

If the physical characteristics of your detector dog are:	Then consider your dog at a weight range of:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ribs are easily felt with no fat cover</li> <li>◆ At the base of the tail, the bones are raised with no fat between the skin and bone</li> <li>◆ From a side view, there is a severe abdominal tuck</li> <li>◆ From an overhead view, there is an hour-glass shape</li> </ul>	<p>Very Thin. Consult with a veterinarian about a prescribed diet.</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ribs are easily felt with slight fat cover</li> <li>◆ At the base of the tail, there is a smooth shape where the bones can be felt under a layer of fat</li> <li>◆ From a side view, there is an abdominal tuck</li> <li>◆ From an overhead view, there is a well-proportioned lumbar waist</li> </ul>	<p>Ideal</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ribs are difficult to feel and are under a thick layer of fat</li> <li>◆ At the base of the tail, it is thick and difficult to feel the bones under a thick layer of fat</li> <li>◆ From a side view, fat hangs from the abdomen and there is no waist</li> <li>◆ From an overhead view, it is broad with no shapeliness</li> </ul>	<p>Obese. Consult with a veterinarian about a prescribed diet.</p> 